

## Message Text

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51

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4166

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NEW YORK

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

UNCLAS JAKARTA 10751

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS ID

SUBJ: GOI SPOKESMEN ON POLITICAL PRISONERS

BEGIN SUMMARY: ACCORDING JAKARTA PRESS REPORTS AUGUST 29, GOI AMBASSADOR TO NETHERLANDS GENERAL SUTOPO YUWONO SAID RECENTLY IN THE HAGUE THAT INDONESIA IS UNHAPPY ABOUT ITS POLITICAL PRISONER PROBLEMS AND IS WILLING TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON PROBLEM WITH OTHERS; BUT PRISONER POLICY IS AN INTERNAL MATTER BASED ON CRITICAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS AND GOI IS DOING ITS BEST TO SOLVE IT. IN ANOTHER OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON POLITICAL PRISONERS, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (HANKAM) SPOKESMAN SUMRAHADI SAID IN JAKARTA AUGUST 28 THAT CHARGES BY EX-PKI PRISONER MRS. CARMEL BUDIARJO AND BRITISH ANTI-PRISONER GROUP THAT GOI MISTREATS PRISONERS ARE FALSE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RECENT INTERVIEW WITH ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD IN THE HAGUE, AMBASSADOR SUTOPO YUWONO REPORTEDLY SAID INDONESIA IS UNHAPPY WITH PROBLEM OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DETAINEES AND THAT HE HAD ONLY BECOME AWARE OF WEIGHT OF CONCERN ABOUT PRISONERS IN NETHERLANDS AND OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN  
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COUNTRIES SINCE ARRIVING IN THE HAGUE. HE SAID INDONESIA

MUST THEREFORE EXPLAIN REASONS FOR ITS PRISONER POLICY, ADDING THAT ALTHOUGH THIS IS AN "INTERNAL PROBLEM FOR INDONESIA", GOI IS WILLING TO EXCHANGE IDEAS ON SUBJECT WITH ANYONE.

2. SUTOPO SAID THAT THROUGH TRIALS AND EVALUATIONS, GOI IS DETERMINING POLITICAL AIMS OF PRISONERS AND WHETHER OR NOT THEY MAY BE RETURNED TO SOCIETY AS LOYAL CITIZENS. ALSO, HE SAID PRISONERS ARE GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE THEIR LOT. UYTOPO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FUTURE OF PRISONERS IS UNCERTAIN, BUT ARGUED THAT INDONESIA CANNOT AFFORD TO GIVE COMMUNISTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEIZE POWER. "INDONESIAN HISTORY HAS PROVIDED A VALUABLE LESSON IN THIS RESPECT," HE SAID. HE ALSO NOTED THAT EX-PRESIDENT SUKARNO HAD SENT TOO MANY INDONESIAN YOUTHS ABROAD TO STUDY IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND THAT THESE YOUTHS RETURN HOME MORE COMMUNIST THAN INDONESIAN.

3. HANKAM SPOKESMANBRIG GEN SUMRAHADI TOLD JOURNALISTS IN JAKARTA AUGUST 28 THAT CHARGES MADE BY EX-PKI POLITICAL PRISONER CARMEL BUDIARJO AND "BRITISH CAMPAIGN FOR THE RELEASE OF INDONESIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS" THAT GOI MIS-TREATS THE PRISONERS ARE FALSE. HE CITED AS PROOF STATEMENTS BY INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVES AFTER A VISIT TO THE BURU ISLAND DETENTION AREA THAT PRISONERS WERE TREATED SATISFACTORILY. (NOTE: THIS IS EVIDENTLY REFERENCE TO REPORT OF ICRC TEAM THAT VISITED BURU IN 1971.) SUMRAHADI SAID CAMPAIGN WAS AN ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT INDONESIA IN EYES OF THE WORLD, BUT HAS FAILED.

4. PRESS REPORTS DESCRIBED CARMEL BUDIARJO AS ENGLISH WOMAN WHO HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY SINCE 1974. SHE MARRIED PKI OFFICIAL SUWONDODF BUDIARJO IN YUGOSLAVIA AND RETURNED WITH HIM TO INDONESIA IN 1952. BOTH BUDIARJOS WERE DETAINED AFTER SEP 30, 1965 ATTEMPTED COUP; BUT MRS. BUDIARJO WAS RELEASED IN 1971 ON CONDIDITION THAT SHE WOULD NOT CARRY ON ANTI-INDONESIAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ABROAD. HER HUSBAND REMAINS IN DETENTION AS CLASS "B" PRISONER.  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, ID, NL, (SUTOPO YUWONO)  
**To:** STATE  
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